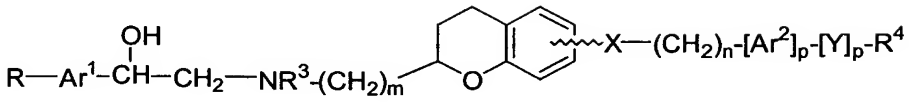
What is claimed as new and useful is:

1. A compound of the formula I:



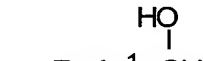
I

wherein

R is hydrogen, hydroxy, oxo, halo, C_1-C_{10}haloalkyl, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, cyano, nitro, NR^1R^1, S R^1, OR^1, SO_2R^2, $OCOR^2$, NR^1COR^2, COR^2, $NR^1SO_2R^2$, $NR^1CO_2R^1$, pyrrole, or Ar^2, optionally substituted with hydroxy, halogen, cyano, NR^1R^1, SR^1, trifluoromethyl, OR^1, C_3-C_8 cycloaklyl, phenyl, NR^1COR^2, COR^2, SO_2R^2, $OCOR^2$, $NR^1SO_2R^2$, or $NR^1CO_2R^1$;

R^1 is hydrogen, C_1-C_{10} alkyl optionally substituted with 1 to 4 substituents selected from hydroxy, halogen, CO_2H, CO_2C_1-C_{10} alkyl, SO_2C_1-C_{10}alkyl, C_1-C_{10} alkoxy; or C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, phenyl or naphthyl, each optionally substituted with 1 to 4 substituents selected from halogen, nitro, oxo, C_1- C_{10} alkyl, C_1-C_{10} alkoxy, and C_1-C_{10} alkylthio;

R^2 is R^1 or NR^1R^1;

R^3 is hydrogen, C_1-C_{10} alkyl or  ;

Ar^1 is Ar^1-O-CH_2, phenyl, or a 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic ring with from 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from O, S and N, each moiety being optionally fused to a 5 membered heterocyclic ring containing from 1 to 4 hetero atoms selected from O, S, and N, the fused heterocyclic ring being optionally fused to a phenyl ring or substituted with oxo;

m is 1, 2 or 3;

$(CH_2)_m$ may be optionally replaced with C-O-$(CH_2)_m$;

X is SO_2-piperizinyl, NR^3--SO_2, or SO_2—NR^3;

n is 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4;

Ar^2 is phenyl, or a 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic ring with from 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from O, S and N, each moiety being optionally substituted with halogen, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_1-C_{10} alkoxy, and OR, or being fused to a 5 membered heterocyclic ring containing from 1 to 4 hetero atoms selected from O, S, and N, the fused heterocyclic ring being optionally fused to a phenyl ring or optionally substituted with oxo;

Y is O - Y, NR^1, NR^1CO, C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl or a 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic ring with from 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from O, S and N, each of which is optionally substituted with oxo;

p is 0 or 1;

R^4 is hydrogen, R^1, R^2, oxo, C_1-C_{10} heteroalkyl, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_1-C_{10} haloalkyl, each being optionally substituted with C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, phenyl, naphthyl, benzofuran, carbazole, dibenzothiofuran, or a 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic ring with from 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from O, S, and N, each ring structure being optionally substituted with halo and C_1-C_{10} alkyl,

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof.

2. A compound of claim 1 wherein Ar^1 is optionally substituted phenyl or pyridyl, X is NR^3-SO_2 or SO_2-NR^3, Ar^2 is phenyl, pyridyl pyrimidinyl or pyrrolyl, Y is optionally substituted pyridyl, pyrrolyl, pyrimidinyl, quinolinyl, imadazolyl, and dihydrohenzofuranyl, and R^4 is R^1 or optionally substituted C_1-C_{10} alkyl.

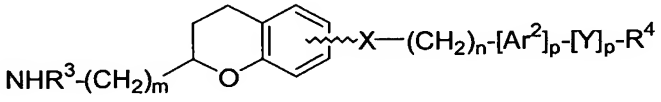
3. A compound of claim 2 wherein m is one and n is zero or one.

4. A compound of Claim 3 wherein R^3 is hydrogen and R^4 is C_1-C_{10} alkyl optionally substituted with optionally substituted C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, phenyl, or pyridyl.

5. A compound of claim 4 wherein R is hydrogen, halo, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, nitro or NR^1R^1, n is zero, X is attached to the chroman moiety in the 6 position, n is zero, Ar^2 is phenyl or pyridyl, and Y is optionally substituted pyridyl or pyrrolyl.

6. A compound of Claim 1 wherein the -OH group of the compound of Formula 1 is in the R configuration.

7. A compound useful in the preparation of compounds of Formula 1 of the formula



Formula II/Compound 2

wherein,

R is hydrogen, hydroxy, oxo, halo, C_1-C_{10}haloalkyl, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, cyano, nitro, NR^1R^1, SR^1, OR^1, SO_2R^2, $OCOR^2$, NR^1COR^2, COR^2, $NR^1SO_2R^2$, $NR^1CO_2R^1$, pyrrole, or Ar^2, optionally substituted with hydroxy, halogen, cyano, NR^1R^1, SR^1, trifluoromethyl, OR^1, C_3-C_8 cycloaklyl, phenyl, NR^1COR^2, COR^2, SO_2R^2, $OCOR^2$, $NR^1SO_2R^2$, or $NR^1CO_2R^1$;

R^1 is hydrogen, C_1-C_{10} alkyl optionally substituted with 1 to 4 substituents selected from hydroxy, halogen, CO_2H, CO_2C_1-C_{10} alkyl, SO_2C_1-C_{10}alkyl, C_1-C_{10} alkoxy; or C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, phenyl or naphthyl, each optionally substituted with 1 to 4 substituents selected from halogen, nitro, oxo, C_1- C_{10} alkyl, C_1-C_{10} alkoxy, and C_1-C_{10} alkylthio;

R^2 is R^1 or NR^1R^1;

R^3 is hydrogen, C_1-C_{10} alkyl or $R–Ar^1–\underset{\displaystyle HO}{\underset{|}{CH}}\text{-}CH_2–$;

m is 1, 2 or 3;

$(CH_2)_m$ may be optionally replaced with C-O-$(CH_2)_m$;

X is SO_2-piperizinyl, NR^3--SO_2, or SO_2—NR^3;

n is 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4;

Ar^2 is phenyl, or a 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic ring with from 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from O, S and N, each moiety being optionally substituted with halogen, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_1-C_{10} alkoxy, and OR, or being fused to a 5 membered heterocyclic ring containing from 1 to 4 hetero atoms selected from O, S, and N, the fused heterocyclic ring being optionally used to a phenyl ring or optionally substituted with oxo;

Y is O - Y, NR^1, NR^1CO, C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl or a 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic ring with from 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from O, S and N, each of which is optionally substituted with oxo;

p is 0 or 1;

R^4 is hydrogen, R^1, R^2, oxo, C_1-C_{10} heteroalkyl, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_1-C_{10} haloalkyl, each being optionally substituted with C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, phenyl, naphthyl,

benzofuran, carbazole, dibenzothiofuran, or a 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic ring with from 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from O, S, and N, each ring structure being optionally substituted with halo and C_1-C_{10} alkyl,

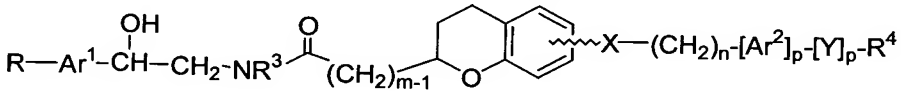
8. A compound of claim 7 wherein X is NR^3-SO_2 or SO_2-NR^3, Ar^2 is phenyl, pyridyl pyrimidinyl or pyrrolyl, Y is optionally substituted pyridyl, pyrrolyl, pyrimidinyl, quinolinyl, imadazolyl, and dihydrohenzofuranyl, and R^4 is R^1 or optionally substituted C_1-C_{10} alkyl.

9. A compound of claim 8 wherein m is one and n is zero or one.

10. A compound of Claim 9 wherein R^3 is hydrogen and R^4 is C_1-C_{10} alkyl optionally substituted with optionally substituted C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, phenyl, or pyridyl.

11. A compound of claim 10 wherein n is zero, X is attached to the chroman moiety in the 6 position, n is zero, Ar^2 is phenyl or pyridyl, and Y is optionally substituted pyridyl or pyrrolyl.

12. A compound useful in the preparation of compounds of Formula 1 of the formula



Formula III/Compound 34

wherein

R is hydrogen, hydroxy, oxo, halo, C_1-C_{10}haloalkyl, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, cyano, nitro, NR^1R^1, S R^1, OR^1, SO_2R^2, $OCOR^2$, NR^1COR^2, COR^2, $NR^1SO_2R^2$, $NR^1CO_2R^1$, pyrrole, or Ar^2, optionally substituted with hydroxy, halogen, cyano, NR^1R^1, SR^1, trifluoromethyl, OR^1, C_3-C_8 cycloaklyl, phenyl, NR^1COR^2, COR^2, SO_2R^2, $OCOR^2$, $NR^1SO_2R^2$, or $NR^1CO_2R^1$;

R^1 is hydrogen, C_1-C_{10} alkyl optionally substituted with 1 to 4 substituents selected from hydroxy, halogen, CO_2H, CO_2C_1-C_{10} alkyl, SO_2C_1-C_{10}alkyl, C_1-C_{10} alkoxy; or C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, phenyl or naphthyl, each optionally substituted with 1 to 4 substituents selected from halogen, nitro, oxo, C_1- C_{10} alkyl, C_1-C_{10} alkoxy, and C_1-C_{10} alkylthio;

R^2 is R^1 or NR^1R^1;

R^3 is hydrogen, C_1-C_{10} alkyl or $R\text{–}Ar^1\text{–}\underset{\displaystyle HO}{\underset{|}{CH}}\text{-}CH_2\text{–}$;

Ar^1 is Ar^1-O-CH_2, phenyl, or a 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic ring with from 1 to 4

heteroatoms selected from O, S and N, each moiety being optionally fused to a 5 membered heterocyclic ring containing from 1 to 4 hetero atoms selected from O, S, and N, the fused heterocyclic ring being optionally fused to a phenyl ring or substituted with oxo;

m is 1, 2 or 3;

$(CH_2)_m$ may be optionally replaced with C-O-$(CH_2)_m$;

X is SO_2-piperizinyl, NR^3--SO_2, or SO_2—NR^3;

n is 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4;

Ar^2 is phenyl, or a 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic ring with from 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from O, S and N, each moiety being optionally substituted with halogen, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_1-C_{10} alkoxy, and OR, or being fused to a 5 membered heterocyclic ring containing from 1 to 4 hetero atoms selected from O, S, and N, the fused heterocyclic ring being optionally fused to a phenyl ring or optionally substituted with oxo;

Y is O - Y, NR^1, NR^1CO, C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl or a 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic ring with from 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from O, S and N, each of which is optionally substituted with oxo;

p is 0 or 1;

R^4 is hydrogen, R^1, R^2, oxo, C_1-C_{10} heteroalkyl, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_1-C_{10} haloalkyl, each being optionally substituted with C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, phenyl, naphthyl, benzofuran, carbazole, dibenzothiofuran, or a 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic ring with from 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from O, S, and N, each ring structure being optionally substituted with halo and C_1-C_{10} alkyl.

13. A compound of claim 12 wherein Ar^1 is optionally substituted phenyl or pyridyl, X is NR^3-SO_2 or SO_2-NR^3, Ar^2 is phenyl, pyridyl pyrimidinyl or pyrrolyl, Y is optionally substituted pyridyl, pyrrolyl, pyrimidinyl, quinolinyl, imadazolyl, and dihydrohenzofuranyl, and R^4 is R^1 or optionally substituted C_1-C_{10} alkyl.

14. A compound of claim 13 wherein m is one and n is zero or one.

15. A compound of Claim 14 wherein R^3 is hydrogen and R^4 is C_1-C_{10} alkyl optionally substituted with optionally substituted C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, phenyl, or pyridyl.

16. A compound of claim 15 wherein R is hydrogen, halo, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, nitro or NR^1R^1, n is zero, X is attached to the chroman moiety in the 6 position, n is zero, Ar^2 is phenyl or

pyridyl, and Y is optionally substituted pyridyl or pyrrolyl.

17. A method of treating a beta-3 adrenergic receptor mediated condition which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of Formula 1, or a salt or ester thereof.

18. A method of treating a beta-3 adrenergic receptor mediated condition which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of claim 9, or a salt or ester thereof.

19. A method of treating obesity in mammals which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of Formula 1, or a salt or ester thereof.

20. A method of treating obesity in mannals which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of claim 9, or a salt or ester thereof.

21. A method of treating diabetes in mammals which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of Formula 1, or a salt or ester thereof.

22. A method of treating diabetes in mammals which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of claim 9, or a salt or ester thereof.

23. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound of Formula I or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

24. A composition comprising an effective amount of a compound of Formula I, or a salt hereof, in combination with an inert carrier.